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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

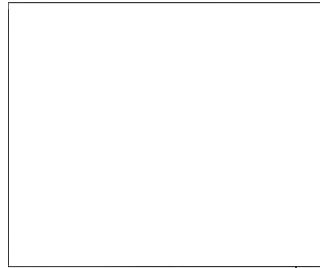
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COUNTRY

Hungary

SUBJECT

The Position of the AVH

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1. The Hungarian AVH (Hungarian Secret Police) at the present time is a true copy of the Soviet MVD (Soviet Secret Police), and consequently a dangerous power factor in the hands of a dictator. This present situation is the result of a seven-year-long development in Hungary and the century-old knowledge of the Soviet terror specialists.
2. In 1945 Hungary had only a police force in accordance with a democratic state. The personnel of the national police central bureu included a "political section," which may be regarded as the kernel of the present AVH, although at that time there was hardly any difference between the work of this section and that of corresponding western police organizations in general.
3. The principal agencies of the Hungarian police, under Soviet pressure, have been taken over since that time by the trusted agents of the Communist Party. Elements such as were politically persecuted until the end of World War II have mainly been introduced into the political section; consequently they are out for revenge in their new position and inspire political hatred. The executive branches of the political police in these times are made up of known criminals and morally decayed people who blindly serve the regime for its never-hoped-for ~~big~~ rewards.
4. In 1946, the political section was separated from the police and expanded step by step into an independent agency of equal rank, subordinate only to the Interior Ministry. The two police forces had numerous common organs in an administrative sense, but the Prime Minister and the Ministerial Council could exert no influence upon the political police because the latter listened only to the Communist Interior Minister and party leader, Mátyás Rákosi.

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5. The economic police force was also established at that time. Its founder was the then Minister of the Interior, later executed, Communist, László Rajk. It is more clearly seen and believed now, that Rajk's purpose was to create a counterweight to weaken the political police, who were completely under Muscovite leadership. Rajk was a "Titoist," a national Communist who was not pleased with the Muscovite assumption of power. Such a proceeding was still possible at that time, since Rákosi had entrusted the direction of the political police to his faithful follower, Gábor Péter (formerly Auspitz). This period lasted until Rajk's fall.
6. A national security division AVO (Hungarian Civilian Political Police) was created in the Interior Ministry by an order of the Prime Minister on 7 Sep 48. This agency at that time was completely independent of the police. Interior Minister József Kádár was its initiator. He entrusted the leadership of this important new division to his State Secretary, Sándor Székely. The AVO center (Andrássystrasse 60 and surrounding houses) formed an independent state within the state. The AVO at that time acquired its own administrative and supply agencies, and the police could exercise no influence over it.
7. In the course of the reorganization the following police agencies were consolidated with the AVO: the economic police and sabotage defense; the border and river police; the airfield police, who had belonged to the national police; the passport division of the Interior Ministry; TÖKK, the agency concerned with the control of foreigners in Hungary. During this period an attempt was made to purge the AVO of the darker criminal element, which in this phase was an undesirable force to the Interior Ministry.
8. The name of the AVO was changed by an Interior Ministry order of 1 Mar 49. After which the political police were called BAN (Belügyminisztérium Államvédelmi Hatósága). The first armed units were created in the BAN at this time. The command of these units was given in the name of the "High Command of the Armed National Defense Troops."
9. The political police became a completely independent agency on 1 Jan 50, when the organization was placed under the authority of the Council of Ministers. At the same time it again received a new name, AVH (Államvédelmi Hatóság). In the Ministerial Council there is a reviewer (Referent) for AVH affairs, who is not necessarily always the same person as the Minister of the Interior. At this time also the border guard was transferred from the authority of the Defense Ministry to that of the AVH high command. Since that time there have been two distinct service branches in the organization: the interior police, called "blue" AVH from the color of the uniform, and the border guard or "green" AVH.
10. The territorial organization of the AVH was also reformed. Seven ~~district~~ commands were organized, subordinate to the Budapest central. The AVH district commands are separate from the numerous county, city and local district police. This means in practice that the regular police organization is paralleled by independent AVH agencies which keep watch over and control the national police.
11. The AVH security service was also established at this time, with foreign and domestic sections. In the interval, politically well-trained cadres returned from the Soviet Union and took over leadership of the AVH throughout Hungary. By this means the AVH received its final form and organization as a Hungarian MVD. The Soviet uniform which is still worn, was also introduced, and the AVH thus was completely Sovietized outwardly.

SECRET

50X1-HUM

-3-

12. Present Organization of the AVH. In May 1951 the AVH headquarters moved to new quarters in the six-story building on the Jászai Mari-Platz. At this time also the AVH entered the stage of development which its organizers had in mind from the beginning: to become the eye and ear of the Communist Party in Hungary. It was also able to spin webs abroad which still give good service. At the same time the regular police was reduced to a relatively small orbit of authority, principally the prosecution of ordinary penal matters and the regulation of traffic.

13. In the fall of 1953 more changes were made in the higher AVH administration and the organization was again placed under the authority of the Interior Ministry. This change was brought about by the personal influence of Ernő Gerő. This reorganization was of a political character and affected only the highest circles of AVH administration. It is said in Budapest that the re-organization was connected with the fall of Beria. It has made no change worth noticing in the AVH organization itself.

14. The Minister of the Interior, responsible to the Ministerial Council, is the actual head of the AVH. Under him is the AVH central bureau (Országos Központ), the present head of which is Major General László Pires. The national central directs the three main AVH groups: the central offices and agencies; the district offices in Budapest and the provinces; and the agencies directly subordinate to the central headquarters.

15. The central offices and agencies are organized as follows:

- (a) Administration: Presidium, cadre section, personnel section, training section (located in the Aradiigasse); communications section (telephone, telegraph and radio); intelligence central (headed by Lt. Col. /fmv/Kurti); cipher section, courier section (located in the Abonyigasse).
- (b) Executive Group: Political interrogation and punishment sections, headed by AVH Major /fmv/Toldi; security section, headed by AVH Colonel Mihály Lambrik; traffic section (control of foreigners, postal censorship); penal institutions.
- (c) Special Agencies: Counterintelligence section (foreign and domestic branches); document office. Located in Budapeststrasse.
- (d) Independent of the three groups above mentioned, but also under the central headquarters are the printing office, welfare offices, and Soviet liaison staff.

16. The political interrogation and punishment section is divided into branches dealing with agriculture, trade, industry, mining, religion and travel. The security section is responsible for the lives and safety of officials and party leaders. The traffic section agency responsible for surveillance over foreigners living in Hungary is called the UKH. The Soviet liaison staff is located in a separate building. It is headed by the MVD General /fmv/ Petrovich, under whom the responsible Hungarian head is AVH Colonel /fmv/ Lakatos.

17. Budapest constitutes a district office of the AVH and there are 18 provincial district offices as follows: Tata, Győr, Szombathely, Székesfehérvár, Veszprém, Zalaegerszeg, Szekszárd, Kaposvár, Pécs, Kecskemét, Szeged, Szolnok, Békéscsaba, Debrecen, Eger, Nyíregyháza, Miskolc, Salgótarján. These AVH offices are directed by staffs whose numbers and dispositions depend on the local situation. An AVH representative works in every larger town, in every important industrial

SECRET

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44



plant, especially war industry plants, at all airfields, at all large depots, in all forced labor camps, among the workers on fortifications and other important constructions, and so on. Their organization and number changes according to their missions. There are at least 170 known AVH agents in Hungary. The staff of an AVH district office is a smaller scale copy of that of the central headquarters, so that specialists and reviewers are available for tasks of any kind. Such a sectional staff has ordinarily about 50 members and 3 or 4 cars.

18. **Armed AVH Units.** Every AVH district has its own special armed unit, the strength of which ranges from a platoon to a battalion. According to reliable information, there are 7 armed AVH battalions at the present time, two of which are in Budapest. Their organization corresponds to that of a motorized rifle battalion and they are equipped with infantry automatic weapons. Some battalions have armored cars in addition. The chief function of these formations in time of peace is to preserve internal order where the regular police are not strong enough, and to suppress all mass demonstrations or risings. In time of war they are the organs of discipline and order behind the front lines, like the NVD regiments in World War II.

19. **Party Guard.** The Party guard, commanded by AVH Lt. Col. Lajos Horvath, is one of the agencies directly subordinate to central headquarters. It is composed of tested Party fanatics who receive special training. It sees to the personal security and protects the lives of high Party and government officials. Essentially it is a political bodyguard. It also provides chauffeurs for important persons. The Party guard members wear civilian dress. They are armed with pistols and machine pistols. Usually, prominent officials are accompanied by another car containing 3 or 4 Party guard members. On important occasions two cars of Party guards follow. On such occasions the streets are blocked off on both sides for alighting.

20. **Border Guard.** The border guard is under the direct authority of the AVH central. Its headquarters are in Budapest. Directly subordinate to headquarters are an officers' school, a noncommissioned officers' school, a staff officers' school, an intelligence training course, a dog training school, and a supply organization. There are nine district commands and an independent border guard battalion. The guard has 25 battalions altogether, of which 15 are stationed immediately on the borders. Each district command has a certain number of combat battalions, a training battalion, an alert company, and a supply organization.

21. The organization and disposition of the district commands is as follows:

- The 1st and 2nd district commands are on the Austrian border. The 1st District headquarters, Csorna; battalions at Mosonszentjános, Sopron and Kőszeg. 2nd District headquarters, Zalaegerszeg; battalions at Szombathely, Szentgotthárd and Orszentpéter.
- The 3rd, 4th and 5th district commands are on the Yugoslav border. The 3rd District headquarters, Nagykanizsa; battalions at Léténye, Lenti and Babócsa. 4th District headquarters, Pécs; battalions at Barcs, Sellye and Villány. 5th District headquarters, Kiskunhalas; battalions at Baja, Módszánás and Kélebia.
- The 6th and 7th district commands are on the Rumanian border. 6th District headquarters, Orosháza; battalions at Szeged, Békéscsaba and Orosháza. 7th District headquarters, Nyírbátor; battalions at Nyírbátor and Berettyóújfalu.

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SECRET

- 5 -

(d) The 8th and 9th district commands and the independent battalion are on the Czechoslovak border. Eighth District headquarters, Miskolc; battalions at Szencs and Satoraljaujhely. Ninth District headquarters, Balassagyarmat; battalions at Putnok and Dregelypalank.

(e) Independent Border Guard battalion headquarters are at Gyor, or according to another report, at Komrom.

22. The UEK. UEK is a Hungarian abbreviation of Utas Ellenorzo Kirendeltas, meaning Travel Control Branch. There is a UEK branch at every border crossing point, whose members are recruited from the Blue AVH. They are directly subordinate to the central traffic section.

23. Schools and Training Courses. The AVH maintains its own schools for training personnel. There are (a) a higher officers' training course in Budapest; (b) a staff officers' training course, at Tata; (c) a training course for officer replacements; (d) an intelligence course for officers and officer replacements. These courses are not to be confused with the schools for border guard troops, in which training is given along army lines and in which technical training and education in certain directions is carried out. Inquiry officers of the AVH and the border guard attend common training courses.

24. Penal Institutions. The AVH has its own examining and penal institution in the Contigasse, Budapest. In addition there is an AVH agency in all penal institutions.

25. Welfare Institutions. There are two AVH rest homes, at Matrahaza and Siofok.

26. The total strength of all the AVH organizations can be estimated at about 50,000 men. In the Blue AVH there are:

High command and central agency	2,000
Sections and branches	14,000
Armed formations	10,000
Schools and training courses	2,000
Supply and other agencies	4,000
Total	32,000

In the Green AVH, there are:

High command and directly subordinate bureaus	1,000
District commands and units	5,000
Border guard troops	<u>12,000</u>
Total	18,000

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